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(54) Title: POLYMORPHISMS IN THE HUMAN ALPHA4 INTEGRIN SUBUNIT GENE, SUITABLE FOR DIAGNOSIS AND TREATMENT OF INTEGRIN LIGAND MEDIATED DISEASES

(57) Abstract

This invention relates to polymorphisms in the human α_4 integrin subunit gene, in particular the invention is based on the discovery of five single nucleotide polymorphisms (SNPs) in the coding region of the human α_4 integrin subunit gene and eight in the promoter region. The invention also relates to methods and materials for analysing allelic variation in the α_4 integrin subunit gene, and to the use of α_4 integrin subunit polymorphism in the diagnosis and treatment of integrin ligand mediated diseases such as multiple sclerosis, rheumatoid arthritis, atherosclerosis and allergic asthma.